

EDIC chrono.

1 November 1955

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Prospective EDIC Work Program, Fall 1955-Spring 1956

The following topics are currently under consideration by EDIC or might appropriately be put on the EDIC agenda within the next three to six months.

1. East-West Trade Collection and Reporting Requirements

a) Revision of the Foreign Service Reporting Instruction on Economic Relations with the Bloc. (In progress under the EDIC Working Group on Collection Requirements; completion expected by 15 November 1955, the current deadline.)

b) Recommendation of High-Priority Objectives. (Informally requested May be referred to EDIC Working Group on Collection Requirements with a deadline of 31 December 1955.)

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c) Specific Requirements for DCN Support. (Request expected.)

d) Review of Army, Navy and Air Force Collection Instructions for Economic Defense Information. (That such instructions have finally been issued is very gratifying. An EDIC review of the several instructions - to correct their obvious shortcomings, improve their utility and ensure their complementarity with the economic defense reporting instructions of other agencies - will be in order after a reasonable period of grace. Spring, 1956 is suggested as a suitable time for initiating this project.)

2. East-West Trade Commodity Intelligence

a) Continuing program of specific studies under EDIC coordination.

b) Identification of New Strategic Commodities. (This pending project seems to require a formal statement of the problem in writing and a questionnaire directed to the technical and research and development components of the Armed Forces. Personal investigation since the last EDIC meeting indicates that this is a major gap in the present economic defense program.)

*Army, Navy, USAF and State
Dept. review(s) completed.

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3. Bloc Trade Trends and Tactics

A number of EDIC projects under this general heading are likely and would be appropriate within the next six months. For example;

- a) East-West trade in decontrolled and related commodities (especially various forms of copper.)
- b) Operation and effectiveness of TAC (nature and importance of third-country problem, etc.).
- c) Development of new patterns in Bloc procurement of strategic commodities (e.g., geographic shift from Western Europe to the Middle East; prospective emergence of new problem countries such as Egypt.)
- d) Surveillance of Bloc economic efforts to penetrate and dominate underdeveloped countries of the Free World (including arms traffic.) (This is a subject on which there has been much talk but little action in the EDAC community for two or three years. It seems to call for a surveillance mechanism on the E/ST-DCN model, if its importance would justify the cost of such an effort. The current G-2 interest expressed by Baxter Wood has brought the subject into new prominence.)
- e) Overall trends and patterns of East-West trade (e.g., the current EDIC project on Bloc exports of capital goods and industrial equipment; the post-Geneva Bloc shopping list.)

4. Research Programming

(EDIC activity in this field has been marginal for the past two years. Unless it is substantially increased, the initiative is apt to pass to other EDAC components.)

5. Intelligence Aspects of Economic Warfare Planning

(This topic is listed in order to raise the question of EDIC's role, if any.)

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